

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 6 23 June 2008, 1500 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

There are currently five confirmed wildfires in VA. Stone Coal Fire, Caldwell Mountain, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County discovered on 18 June is **50% contained**; Poor Mountain Fire in Montgomery County is 100% contained; South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge Fire in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake is **60% contained**; Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is 100% contained; Landfill Fire, North Mountain, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County is 100% contained. VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service are coordinating aerial observations flights of mountain ranges in Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation.

WEATHER FORECAST

Monday, 23 June: Mostly cloudy; chance of showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon and evening; some storms could be severe with main threat being damaging wind gusts and large hail; daytime highs low to upper 80's with overnight lows upper 50's to mid 60's; west-southwest winds 5-10 MPH.

Tuesday, 24 June: Mostly cloudy; chance of isolated showers and thunderstorms across Northwest VA; daytime highs low 70's to upper 80's with overnight lows low 50's to low 60's; west winds 5-10 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 1 – Transportation: *VA Department of Transportation provided 2 tractors and operators on 21 June at request of US Fish and Wildlife Service to cut grass along roadsides to prevent fire from spreading.*

ESF 2 – Communications: VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management for deployment of Sprint ERT and IP Trailer for communications, cellular telephone and data support. ***The Sprint ERT and IP Trailer are projected to demobilize and redeploy back to Richmond on 1 July 2008.***

ESF 4 – Firefighting: VA Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports the Poor Mountain Wildfire in Montgomery County burned approximately 250 acres and is 100% contained. All local resources demobilized on 19 June and ***VDOF reduced staffing from approximately 20 to 10 personnel to monitor the fire. Recent rains delayed burn out operations and once weather permits burn out operations will be conducted.*** Lightning is probable cause of the fire.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned **3,139** acres. A piece of construction equipment that burned is the cause of the fire.

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Area communities are affected by smoke, but no homes are in danger at this time. The fire is **60% contained** and 1 July is the projected date for containment. **Staffing has been reduced from 414 to 385 personnel.** Agencies providing personnel and resources are: VA Department of Forestry, VA Department of Emergency Management, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department, City of Suffolk Fire Department and **Civil Air Patrol.** **Ground resources include 8 hand crews, 12 engine crews and 6 bulldozers supported by 4 helicopters, 2 fixed wing aircraft and 20 other specialized fire apparatus.** **High volume pumps are being used to raise water levels in critical fire areas and crews continue to support burnout activities on the eastern edge of the fire. Mulching operations are underway on the northern flank of the fire prior to burnout and hazard tree work is underway on the west flank of the fire. Crews continue to reinforce and widen containment lines.** A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 4,000 feet above the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is estimated to have burned 200 acres and is 100% contained and under control; **staffing was reduced from 15 to 5 personnel to monitor the fire.** Lightning is probable cause of the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Landfill Fire, North Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Botetourt County is estimated to have burned 4 acres and was probably caused by lightning. **The fire is 100% contained and being monitored by 2 USFS personnel.**

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Stone Coal Fire, Caldwell Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County was probably caused by lightning. **Estimated size burned is 820 acres and is 50% contained. USFS has approximately 45 personnel on the scene to include 1 hand crew, 2 engines and 2 bulldozers. Humidity, cloud cover and good, wetting rains Saturday and Sunday slowed the fire considerably. Crews monitored the containment lines on the west, north and south to ensure fire did not cross over. Crews on the east side of the fire will monitor activity around Lees Gap where moisture, steepness and a lack of ground fuels have slowed the fire's activity. Dry hot weather conditions next week could cause the fire to resume activity in that area. Most resources were scheduled to be released late 22 June with a small crew, 1 engine and 1 bulldozer remaining to monitor the fire throughout the week.**

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: VDEM created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness, monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

PLANNING SECTION

Situation/Documentation Unit: Monitoring situation and issuing daily SPOT reports and situation reports on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. **Next Situation Report will be issued Wednesday, 25 June 2008.**

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